

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, SP, GB

SUBJECT: CANARY ISLANDS, U.S., SPAIN, AND AFRICA

REF: LIBREVILLE 1155 (DTG 171130Z MAY 78)

1. NOT HAVING SEEN A RESPONSE BY THE DEPARTMENT TO THE REFERENCED TELEGRAM, WE WOULD ADVANCE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WHICH MAY BE OF USE TO YOU IN ANSWERING LOCAL INQUIRIES.

2. THERE ARE NO U.S. MILITARY FACILITIES ON THE CANARY ISLANDS, NOR ANY DISCUSSION WHATSOEVER OF PLACING ANY THERE. ALL U.S. MILITARY FACILITIES ON SPANISH BASES ARE CLEARLY DESCRIBED IN THE TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION OF 1976, AND ALL ARE IN CONTINENTAL SPAIN.

3. SOME YEARS AGO THERE WERE ON THE CANARIES A STATION MANNED JOINTLY BY NASA AND INTA (SPANISH COOPERATING AGENCY), BUT THIS IS NOW EXCLUSIVELY INTA. SIMILARLY, A SMALL U.S. NAVY TECHNICAL INSTALLATION WHICH WAS ONCE

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THERE HAS LONG AGO BEEN CLOSED.

4. THE REFERENCE TO A NAVAL AIR STATION REFERS TO A LONG-STANDING SPANISH PLAN TO CONSTRUCT SUCH A FACILITY. THE GOS RECENTLY DECIDED TO DO THIS BY BUILDING ONTO THE SOUTH END OF GANDO AIRFIELD (A JOINT CIVIL-SPANISH AIR FORCE INSTALLATION) ON GRAN CANARIA. THIS PROJECT IS EXPECTED

TO TAKE SOME YEARS FOR COMPLETION. THE SPANISH HAVE OTHER
PLANS IN TRAIN AS WELL FOR DEFENSE IMPROVEMENTS IN THE
CANARIES. RUMOR ALONE TIES THESE TO THE U.S. OR NATO.
THE GOS HAS MADE CLEAR NEITHER PLAYS ANY ROLE. EATON

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